



Visitation Protocol and Ground Rules for the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Bait Trap Gather



BLM recognizes and respects the right of interested members of the public and the press to observe the Pryor Mountains wild horse gather. At the same time, BLM must ensure the health and safety of the public, BLM's employees, and America's wild horses. Accordingly, BLM developed these rules to maximize the opportunity for reasonable public access to the gather while ensuring that BLM's health and safety responsibilities are fulfilled. Failure to maintain safe distances from operations at the gather and temporary holding sites could result in members of the public inadvertently getting in the path of the wild horses or gather personnel, thereby placing themselves and others at risk, or causing stress and potential injury to the wild horses.

- Observers must provide their own 4-wheel drive high clearance vehicle, appropriate shoes, clothing, food and water.
- Observers are prohibited from riding in government and contractor vehicles and equipment.
- BLM will establish one observation area, in the immediate area of the bait traps and holding sites, to which individuals will be directed. This area will be placed so as to maximize the opportunity for public observation while providing for a safe and effective wild horse/burro gather. The utilization of such observation areas is necessary due to the use and presence of heavy equipment in the gather operation and the critical need to allow BLM personnel to fully focus on attending to the needs of the wild horses/burros while maintaining a safe environment for all involved. In addition, observation areas will be sited so as to protect the wild horses from being spooked, startled or impacted in a manner that results in increased stress.
- BLM representatives will escort visitors to and from the gather and/or temporary holding facility during designated observation days.
- Visitors will be assigned to a specific BLM representative and must stay with that person at all times or at the designated public viewing area.
- Individuals will be directed to the designated observation area by BLM personnel and informed of behavioral rules (such as remaining quiet and still to ensure a safe and effective gather operation).
- BLM will delineate observation areas with yellow caution tape or jute (or a similar type of tape or ribbon).
- Visitors are **NOT** permitted to walk around the gather site unaccompanied by their BLM representative.

- Observers are prohibited from climbing/trespassing onto or in the trucks, equipment or corrals, which is the private property of the contractor.
- When BLM is using heavy equipment in close proximity to a designated observation area, members of the public may be asked to stay by their vehicle for some time before being directed to an observation area once the use of the helicopter or the heavy machinery is complete.
- Visitors must direct their questions/comments to either their designated BLM representative or the BLM spokesperson on site, professional and respectful behavior is expected of all.
- Individuals attempting to move outside a designated observation area will be requested to move back to the designated area or to leave the site. Failure to do so may result in citation or arrest. It is important to stay within the designated observation area to safely observe the wild horse gather.
- Visitors who do not cooperate and follow the rules will be escorted off the gather site by BLM law enforcement personnel, and will be prohibited from participating in any subsequent observation days.

BLM reserves the right to alter these rules based on changes in circumstances that may pose a risk to health, public safety or the safety of wild horses (such as weather, lightening, wildfire, etc.)